Law to control spurious medicines

1151. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons arrested for selling fake medicines in each State during the last one year;

(b) the action taken against them so far;

(c) whether Government propose to make laws more stringent to stop sale of such fake medicines; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Under the provisions of Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and Rules made there under, the State Governments are empowered to regulate and monitor the quality of drugs moving in the market. Action in respect of any complaints for possible manufacture or sale of spurious drugs is taken by the State Govts. through their respective drugs control organizations. As per the feedback available from the Drugs Controllers of States/UTs, for the period 2004-2005, 23 persons were arrested for contravention of the provisions of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules there under.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) The Government has introduced the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2005, in Parliament to provide stricter penalties to the offenders including a maximum penalty of life imprisonment with a fine of Rs. 100,000/- and make the offences non-bailable and cognizable. This has been referred to the Standing Committee for consideration.

Vitamin and mineral deficiencies

1152. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that 30 per cent people in India suffer from vitamin and mineral deficiencies;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that women and children are the most affected as it damage health, impair work capacity, impact reproduction, reduce intelligence and occupational choices;